

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4520

UNCLAS KUWAIT 0315

DEPT PASS LABOR DEPARTMENT (ILAB DONALD AVERY)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB KU

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR MATERIAL ON U.S. LABOR AND MANPOWER
ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES.

REF: KUWAIT 4704

1. EMBASSY LABOR OFFICER DENNIS A. MICHAUD AND REGIONAL
LABOR ATTACHE JAMES MATTSON HAVE VISITED SEVERAL KUWAITI
OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR,
PLANNING BOARD, CENTRAL TRAINING ORGANIZATION, AND KUWAIT
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. DISCUSSIONS CENTERED
ON DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND PROPOSALS
OF KUWAIT IN MANPOWER FIELD. OFFICIALS EXPRESSED VARYING
DEGREES OF INTEREST IN OBTAINING INFORMATION ON U.S.
EXPERIENCE IN SEVERAL FIELDS: OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND
HEALTH, SETTLEMENT OF LABOR DISPUTES, U.S. EMPLOYMENT
SERVICE ADMINISTRATION AND ACTIVITIES, AND DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR SPONSORED TRAINING SEMINARS IN MANPOWER PLANNING AND
LABOR STATISTICS.

2. TWO SERIES OF EVENTS HAVE OVER THE PAST YEAR UNITED IN
FORCING THE GOK TO GIVE MORE ACTIVE CONSIDERATION TO MAN-
POWER AND LABOR RELATIONS ISSUES. FIRST, THE NATIONALIZATION
OF THE KUWAIT OIL COMPANY HAS BROUGHT THE GOK INTO DIRECT
CONTACT WITH THE OIL SECTOR'S MANPOWER PROBLEMS, INCLUDING
SUCH SENSITIVE AREAS AS WAGE AND SAFETY DISPUTES. SECOND,
KUWAIT'S GOVERNMENT INSPIRED AND FINANCED CONSTRUCTION
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PROGRAMS IN THE FIELDS

OF HOUSING, INDUSTRY, AND PUBLIC WORKS HAVE INCREASED DEMAND ON THE LABOR MARKET JUST AT A TIME WHEN, ACCORDING TO SOME OBSERVERS, DEMAND FROM LOWER GULF STATES WITH ECONOMIC EXPANSON PROGRAMS OF THEIR OWN IS HEIGHTENING COMPETITION FOR LABOR SUPPLY. GOK RESPONSE HAS BEEN IN BOTH THE DOMESTIC AND THE INTERNATIONAL FIELDS: ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW EMPLOYMENT CENTERS, PROPOSALS FOR LABOR ATTACHES TO KUWAIT'S EMBASSIES IN ARAB COUNTRIES, ACTIVE INTEREST IN GULF STATES ARAB LABOR ORGANIZATION AND INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, EMPHASIS ON SETTING UP VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS, TRIPARTITE COMMITTEES OF GOVERNMENT, LABOR UNION, AND EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES TO SETTLE WAGE AND OTHER DISPUTES. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT INTEREST IN U.S. EXPERIENCE EXPRESSED BY GOK OFFICIALS IN ITS DISCUSSIONS REFLECTS THESE DEVELOPMENTS, AND THUS PRESENTS A TIMELY OPPORTUNITY FOR THE UNITED STATES TO INCREASE ITS CONTACTS AND (OVER THE LONG TERM) INFLUENCE IN THIS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT AREA OF KUWAIT'S ECONOMIC GROWTH. AS A FIRST STEP, EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON SEVERAL AREAS OF CONCERN TO KUWAITIS IN THE LABOR/MANPOWER FIELD.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST ILAB POUCH PUBLICATIONS, LAWS, AND OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS, FOR PRESENTATION TO GOK OFFICIALS ON AN INFORMAL BASIS: OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH; U.S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES; CONCILIATION AND MEDIATION OF LABOR DISPUTES ON THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE EMPLOYER SIDE; SDDY0 VPIZUOKILLPUTEPUMANPOWER REPORT OF THE PRESENT. EMBASSY ALSO REQUESTS ILAB CABLE WWAP IEFPRVIGGHCOFHABJECTS, DATES, AND COSTS OF DEPARTMENT OF LABOR SPONSORED SEMINARS AND OTHER PROGRAMS IN FIELDS OF MANPOWER PLANNING AND STATISTICS TRAINING. REFTEL EXPLAINS WHY TIMELY INFORMATION (TRANSMITTED INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE BY CABLE INSTEAD OF BY POUCH) NECESSARY TO ENABLE GOK TO ACT.

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